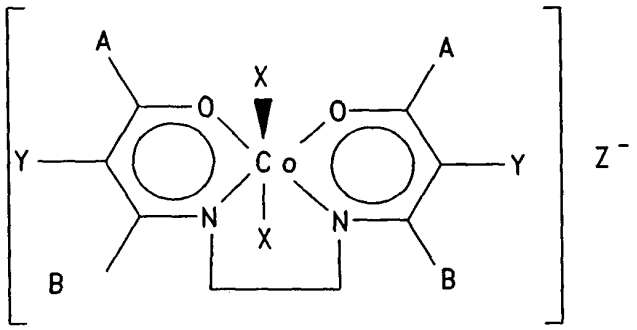
I claim:

1. A method for prophylactically reducing the risk of transmission of a specific virus to a recipient and protecting the recipient from infection by the specific virus comprising topically applying to an appropriate site on the recipient a specific virus prophylactic effective amount of a compound having the structure



wherein each

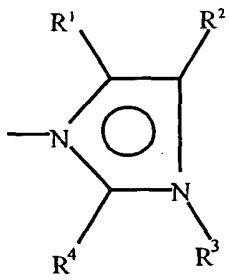
A may be the same or different and is an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted derivative of a phenyl group;

Y may be the same or different and is hydrogen, an unbranched alkyl group, a halide or a group having the structure $R-\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-$ wherein R is hydrogen, an alkoxide group, an alkyl group, or OH;

B may be the same or different and each is hydrogen or an alkyl group;

Z^- is a soluble, pharmaceutically acceptable negative ion, and

X may be the same or different and is an axial ligand selected from the group consisting of moieties having the formula:



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wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 may be the same or different and may be hydrogen or lower alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 are of a sufficiently small size so as not to prohibit the attachment of the axial ligand to the Co atom due to steric hindrance.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the specific virus is selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), human papillomavirus (HPV) and varicella-zoster virus.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the appropriate site is that site on the recipient which is exposed to the specific virus.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is applied to a mucus membrane of the recipient.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is applied to the eye.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is applied to

the respiratory tract of the recipient.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is applied from 8 hours before to about 6 hours after exposure to the specific virus.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is applied from about 1 hour before to about 6 hours after exposure to the specific virus.

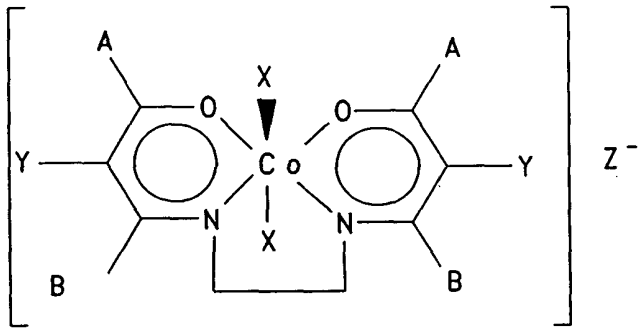
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is applied from about 5 minutes before to about 5 minutes after exposure to the specific virus.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the virus is a specific adenovirus selected from the group consisting of Ad1, Ad2, Ad3, Ad4, Ad5, Ad6, Ad7, Ad8, Ad11, Ad14, Ad19, Ad21, Ad34, Ad35, Ad37, Ad40 and Ad41.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is Compound 96.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of topically applying the compound is performed by contacting the recipient with an aerosol of the compound.

13. A method for disinfecting a liquid containing a specific virus comprising adding to the liquid a specific virus prophylactic effective amount of a compound having the structure



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wherein each

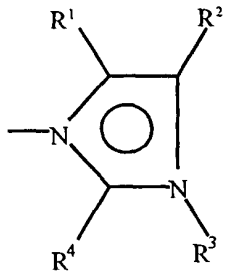
A may be the same or different and is an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted derivative of a phenyl group;

Y may be the same or different and is hydrogen, an unbranched alkyl group, a halide or a group having the structure $R-\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-$ wherein R is hydrogen, an alkoxide group, an alkyl group, or OH;

B may be the same or different and each is hydrogen or an alkyl group;

Z^- is a soluble, pharmaceutically acceptable negative ion, and

X may be the same or different and is an axial ligand selected from the group consisting of moieties having the formula:



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wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 may be the same or different and may be hydrogen or lower alkyl having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 are of a sufficiently small size so as not to prohibit the attachment of the axial ligand to the Co atom due to steric hindrance.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the specific virus is selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), human papillomavirus (HPV) and varicella-zoster virus.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the compound is added in an amount of about 0.00005 to about 5% by weight of the liquid.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the compound is added in an amount of about 0.005 to about 5% by weight of the liquid.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the compound is added in an amount of about 0.005 to about 2% by weight of the liquid.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the compound is added in an amount of about 0.01 to about 2% by weight of the liquid.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein the liquid is a growth media

or a blood-derived product.

20. The method of claim 2 wherein the virus is a specific Human Immunodeficiency Virus selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 and HIV-2.

21. The method of claim 2 wherein the specific virus is selected from the group consisting of HPV-1, HPV-2, HPV-3, HPV-4, HPV-6, HPV-7, HPV-10, HPV-11, HPV-16, HPV-18, HPV-31 and HPV-45.